Claims

[0085] What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method for processing a stored document, comprising:

receiving an image of a document index;

locating, on the document index image, an image of a first sticker specifying an action;

identifying a first document based on the location of the first action sticker on the document index page; and

performing the specified first action on the identified first document.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first action sticker comprises a removable self-adhesive sticker.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the first document is part of a stored collection, and wherein the index comprises a collection coversheet.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the collection coversheet comprises a collection overview.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the collection overview comprises a plurality of thumbnail depictions of documents.

6. The method of claim 3, wherein the collection coversheet comprises a machine-readable collection identifier specifying a storage location for the collection, the method further comprising, prior to performing the specified first action:

retrieving the identified first document from the specified storage location.

7. The method of claim 3, further comprising modifying the stored collection.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising generating an updated collection coversheet.

9. The method of claim 3, further comprising storing a new version of the collection.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising generating an updated collection coversheet including a collection identifier specifying a location for the new version.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the document index comprises a plurality of representations of documents, and wherein identifying a first document based on the location of the action sticker comprises identifying a first document corresponding to a document representation overlapped by the first action sticker.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the document index comprises a plurality of representations of documents, and wherein identifying a first document based on the location of the first action sticker comprises identifying a first document based on proximity of the first action sticker to one of the document representations.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the document index comprises a plurality of representations of documents, and wherein identifying a first document based on the location of the first action sticker comprises identifying a document pointed to by the first action sticker.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the document index comprises a plurality of representations of documents;

the first action sticker comprises an action point; and

identifying a first document based on the location of the first action sticker comprises identifying a first document based on proximity of the action point of the first action sticker to one of the document representations.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the document index comprises a plurality of representations of documents;

the first action sticker comprises an action point; and

identifying a first document based on the location of the first action sticker comprises:

determining a coordinate location for the action point;

determining a coordinate location for at least one of the document representations; and

identifying a first document by comparing the coordinate location for the action point with the coordinate location for the at least one document representation.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the document index comprises a list of documents.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the document index comprises a plurality of thumbnail depictions of documents.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the document index comprises a plurality of icons representing documents.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein the specified first action comprises one selected from the group consisting of:

printing;

e-mailing;

faxing;

grouping;

reordering;

playing;

ungrouping; and

deleting.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein the specified first action comprises specifying an access level for the first document.

21. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

locating, on the document index image, an image of a second sticker specifying a second action;

identifying a second document based on the location of the second action sticker on the document index page; and

performing the specified second action on the identified second document.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising:

prior to performing the specified first action, retrieving the identified first document from a storage device; and

prior to performing the specified second action, retrieving the identified second document from a storage device.

23. The method of claim 1, wherein the first sticker specifies a grouping action, the method further comprising:

locating, on the document index image, an image of a second sticker specifying a grouping action; and

identifying a second document based on the location of the second action sticker on the document index page;

and wherein performing the specified first action comprises grouping the first identified document and the second identified document.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein grouping the first identified document and the second identified document comprises forming a sub-collection comprising the first identified document and the second identified document.

25. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

locating, on the document index image, an image of a second sticker indicating the same document as the first sticker, the second sticker specifying a second action;

determining an order for performing the first action and the second action; and

performing the second specified action on the identified document;

wherein the first and second actions are performed according to the determined order.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein determining an order comprises sorting according to a predetermined sequence of actions.

27. The method of claim 1, wherein the specified first action comprises transmitting the identified first document to a destination, the method further comprising:

determining a destination.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein determining a destination comprises receiving user input specifying a destination.

29. The method of claim 27, wherein determining a destination comprises reading an indicator of a destination from the image of the document index.

30. The method of claim 27, wherein determining a destination comprises reading an indicator of a destination from the first action sticker.

31. The method of claim 27, wherein determining a destination comprises determining at least one selected from the group consisting of:

an e-mail address;

a fax number;

a uniform resource locator;

a telephone number; and

a mailing address.

32. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving an image of a document index comprises scanning the document index.

33. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving an image of a document index comprises receiving an e-mail message comprising the image of the document index.

34. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving an image of a document index comprises receiving a fax message comprising the image of the document index.

35. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining the specified action by reading the first action sticker.

36. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining the specified action by performing optical character recognition on the first action sticker.

37. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining the specified action by determining a shape of the first action sticker.

38. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining the specified action by determining a color of the first action sticker.

39. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining the specified action by reading a machine-readable icon on the first action sticker.

40. The method of claim 1, wherein the document index comprises an identifier specifying a storage location, the method further comprising, prior to performing the specified first action:

retrieving the identified first document from the specified storage location.

41. The method of claim 1, further comprising, prior to performing the specified first action, retrieving the identified first document from a storage device.

42. A computer-implemented method for processing a stored document, comprising:

receiving an image of a document index;

locating, on the document index image, an image of a sticker;

identifying a first document based on the location of the sticker on the document index page;

receiving input specifying an action; and

performing the specified action on the identified document.

43. The method of claim 42, wherein receiving input specifying an action comprises receiving input via a user interface.

44. A computer program product for processing a stored document, comprising:

a computer-readable medium; and

computer program code, encoded on the medium, for:

receiving an image of a document index;

locating, on the document index image, an image of a first sticker specifying an action;

identifying a first document based on the location of the first action sticker on the document index page; and

performing the specified first action on the identified first document.

45. The computer program product of claim 44, wherein the first action sticker comprises a removable self-adhesive sticker.

46. The computer program product of claim 44, wherein the first document is part of a stored collection, and wherein the index comprises a collection coversheet.

47. The computer program product of claim 46, wherein the collection coversheet comprises a collection overview.

48. The computer program product of claim 47, wherein the collection overview comprises a plurality of thumbnail depictions of documents.

49. The computer program product of claim 46, wherein the collection coversheet comprises a machine-readable collection identifier specifying a stor-

age location for the collection, the computer program product further comprising computer program code, encoded on the medium, for, prior to performing the specified first action:

retrieving the identified first document from the specified storage location.

50. The computer program product of claim 46, further comprising computer program code, encoded on the medium, for modifying the stored collection.

51. The computer program product of claim 50, further comprising computer program code, encoded on the medium, for generating an updated collection coversheet.

52. The computer program product of claim 46, further comprising computer program code, encoded on the medium, for storing a new version of the collection.

53. The computer program product of claim 52, further comprising computer program code, encoded on the medium, for generating an updated collection coversheet including a collection identifier specifying a location for the new version.

54. The computer program product of claim 44, wherein the specified first action comprises one selected from the group consisting of:

printing;

e-mailing;

faxing;

grouping;

reordering;

playing;

ungrouping; and

deleting.

55. The computer program product of claim 44, wherein the specified first action comprises specifying an access level for the first document.

56. The computer program product of claim 44, wherein the first sticker specifies a grouping action, the computer program product further comprising computer program code, encoded on the medium, for:

locating, on the document index image, an image of a second sticker specifying a grouping action; and

identifying a second document based on the location of the second action sticker on the document index page;

and wherein the computer program code for performing the specified first action comprises computer program code for grouping the first identified document and the second identified document.

57. The computer program product of claim 56, wherein the computer program code for grouping the first identified document and the second identified document comprises computer program code for forming a sub-collection comprising the first identified document and the second identified document.

58. The computer program product of claim 44, further comprising computer program code, encoded on the medium, for:

locating, on the document index image, an image of a second sticker indicating the same document as the first sticker, the second sticker specifying a second action;

determining an order for performing the first action and the second action; and

performing the second specified action on the identified document;

wherein the first and second actions are performed according to the determined order.

59. The computer program product of claim 44, wherein the specified first action comprises transmitting the identified first document to a destination, the

computer program product further comprising computer program code, encoded on the medium, for:

determining a destination.

60. The computer program product of claim 44, further comprising computer program code, encoded on the medium, for determining the specified action by reading the first action sticker.

61. The computer program product of claim 44, wherein the document index comprises an identifier specifying a storage location, the computer program product further comprising, computer program code, encoded on the medium, for, prior to performing the specified first action:

retrieving the identified first document from the specified storage location.

62. The computer program product of claim 44, further comprising, computer program code, encoded on the medium, for, prior to performing the specified first action, retrieving the identified first document from a storage device.

63. A system for processing a stored document, comprising:

a document index input device, for receiving an image of a document index;

a sticker locator, coupled to the document input index device, for locating, on the document index image, an image of a first sticker specifying an action;

a document identifier, coupled to the sticker locator, for identifying a first document based on the location of the first action sticker on the document index page; and

a document processor, coupled to the document identifier, for performing the specified first action on the identified first document.

64. The system of claim 63, wherein the first action sticker comprises a removable self-adhesive sticker.

65. The system of claim 63, wherein the first document is part of a stored collection, and wherein the index comprises a collection coversheet.

66. The system of claim 65, wherein the collection coversheet comprises a collection overview.

67. The system of claim 66, wherein the collection overview comprises a plurality of thumbnail depictions of documents.

68. The system of claim 65, wherein the collection coversheet comprises a machine-readable collection identifier specifying a storage location for the collection, the system further comprising:

a document retriever, coupled to the document identifier, for retrieving the identified first document from the specified storage location.

69. The system of claim 65, wherein the document processor modifies the stored collection.

70. The system of claim 69, further comprising a coversheet generator, coupled to the document processor, for generating an updated collection coversheet.

71. The system of claim 65, further comprising a storage device, coupled to the document processor, for storing a new version of the collection.

72. The system of claim 71, further comprising a coversheet generator, coupled to the document processor, for generating an updated collection coversheet including a collection identifier specifying a location for the new version.

73. The system of claim 63, wherein the specified first action comprises one selected from the group consisting of:

printing;

e-mailing;

faxing;

grouping;

reordering;

playing;

ungrouping; and

deleting.

74. The system of claim 63, wherein the specified first action comprises specifying an access level for the first document.

75. The system of claim 63, wherein the first sticker specifies a grouping action, wherein:

the sticker locator locates, on the document index image, an image of a second sticker specifying a grouping action; and

the document identifier identifies a second document based on the location of the second action sticker on the document index page; and

the document processor groups the first identified document and the second identified document.

76. The system of claim 75, wherein the document processor groups the first identified document and the second identified document by forming a sub-collection comprising the first identified document and the second identified document.

77. The system of claim 63, wherein:

the sticker locator locates, on the document index image, an image of a second sticker indicating the same document as the first sticker, the second sticker specifying a second action; and

the document processor determines an order for performing the first action and the second action, and performs the second specified action on the identified document according to the determined order.

78. The system of claim 63, wherein the document index comprises an identifier specifying a storage location, the system further comprising:

a document retriever, coupled to the document identifier, for retrieving the identified first document from the specified storage location.

79. The system of claim 63, further comprising:

a document retriever, coupled to the document identifier, for retrieving the identified first document from a storage device.